

Abstract

10 A system and method for bridging the POTS network
and a packet network, such as the Internet, uses a set
of access objects that provide the interfacing and
functionality for exchanging address and payload
information with the packet network, and for exchanging
payload information with the payload subnetwork and
signaling information with the signaling subnetwork of
the POTS network. The system includes a communications
15 management object that coordinates the transfer of
information between the POTS network and the packet
network; a payload object that transfers payload
information between the system and the payload
subnetwork of the first communications network; a
20 signaling object that transfers signaling information
between the system and the signaling subnetwork of the
first communications network in accordance with a
signaling protocol associated with the signaling
subnetwork; and a packet object that transfers payload
25 and address information between the system and the
second communications network in accordance with a
communications protocol associated with the second
communications network. An alternative embodiment uses
a plurality of payload, signaling and packet objects to
30 provide a scalable system.